

**CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

together with the Report of the

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**1955**



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## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. E. Jones, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor I. J. Jacques

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Councillor Mrs. M. L. Rowley, J.P.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

R. WEBSTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Miss M. Young — Jointly with the Local Health Authority.

## SANITARY DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Shops Inspector: J. Ball, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

First Additional Sanitary Inspector: R. Heath, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: H. Forrest, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary and Shops Inspector: N. Aston.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector: G. Williams.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff: Mrs. P. Webb, Miss G. Lockley.

## STAFF OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY WORKING IN THE CANNOCK DISTRICT

Mrs. S. Leach, S.R.N.

Mrs. H. M. Thomson, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V.

Mrs. H. M. Box, S.R.N.

Mrs. M. E. Vaughan, S.R.N.

Miss A. M. M. Girdlestone, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss B. A. Dryhurst, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., R.M.N., R.M.P.A., M.T.D.  
(Resigned 9th March, 1955).

Mrs. E. R. Ledington, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

(Appointed 6th June, 1955)

## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Health Department, during the year 1955.

The vital statistics for 1955 continued the trend of previous years. Thus the birth rate has continued to fall, and is now at the lowest post war level at 14.71 in contrast to the rate of 23.69 which obtained eight-years previously. The number of babies born in Cannock in 1955 was only two thirds of the number born in 1947. The birth rate in the District has fallen below the National average for the first time since before the war.

As in previous years the proportion of confinements in institutions increased at the expense of births at home.

This was the result of an increase in the actual number of hospital confinements, and of the reduction in the total number of all births.

There were no maternal deaths in 1955, and the District thus completed its 7th year without a death attributable to childbearing.

Ten cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, but none were due to puerperal sepsis.

The neonatal mortality rate was 22.8 and accounted for rather more than two thirds of the total infantile mortality.

The Death Rate for the year of 10.32 was much the same as in the preceding year (10.29).

The bi-annual outbreak of Measles occurred during 1955, and produced a total of 651 cases — a moderate number for an epidemic year. The total, however, far exceeds that of the next most prevalent infectious disease, Whooping Cough (92 cases).

Immunisation against whooping cough is not carried out in this District on the scale of Diphtheria immunisation, and in any case much of it is not done until an age later than that recommended.

Nevertheless, it is of interest to note that none of the notified cases had been immunised.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. This is the first year in which we have received no notifications. The last confirmed case of Diphtheria in the District was in 1952. Notifications have been received in the intervening years, but on further investigation the cases proved not to be Diphtheria.

Thirty notifications of Dysentery were received, of which eighteen were positive, and eight negative. Laboratory investigation of the remaining cases showed them to be Food Poisoning infections (*Salmonellae*). The first cases of Dysentery were discovered amongst children at a school in the Cannock Rural District (Huntington), but the children were resident in the Urban District.

Five notifications of Food Poisoning were received, and all proved to be positive (*Salmonellae*). They were all isolated cases. No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, but only one of these was confirmed as a true Poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis statistics showed a marked improvement on previous years. Thus the deaths in 1955 were only 2, as against an average of 15 for the preceding 9 years. The number of new cases too has fallen substantially from around 40 cases per year over the last decade, to 23 cases in 1955.

During the year the Council built 125 houses. 29 Houses and 19 Bungalows were erected privately for owner occupation. The Coal Board houses were completed before the beginning of 1955 and no new Coal Board houses were completed within the year.

24 families from unfit houses were re-housed, either in new Council houses, or in Re-lets, of older but sound property. Overcrowding in ten households was abated.

Routine bacteriological and chemical examinations of water supplied by the South Staffordshire Company throughout the District have shown, with one exception, consistently satisfactory results. The water is hard, usually containing some 150 parts per million of calcium and magnesium salts. It contains little fluoride. As members are aware, it is possible that Fluoride in a proportion of 1 part per million in drinking water may have some protective effect against dental decay in children, and large scale trials to test this are in progress elsewhere. Certainly extensive dental caries is prevalent amongst the children of our district, and the low amount of fluoride in the water may be a contributing factor. The bacteriological standard of the water supply is above reproach.

Supervision of food premises and foodstuffs has been carried out throughout the year, by the Health Department to secure the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act — namely the protection of the consumer as regards the composition of food and the accuracy of its labelling and his protection against infectious diseases transmissible by food and drink. The volume of work involved is substantial.

I am fortunate in the continued interest and encouragement of the Committee in matters concerning the health of the District, and I am happy to record, this year, as in the past, the unfailing helpfulness of my colleagues on the Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. WEBSTER

Medical Officer of Health.



# SECTION A

## Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the District (excluding area covered by water)	acres 8,155
Population at 1931 Census ... ..	35,300
Population at 1951 Census ... ..	40,927
Registrar General's estimate of population to middle of year ... ..	41,730
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of the year ... ..	11,458
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1956 ... ..	£376,417
Product of Penny Rate ... ..	£806

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

Date	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	18 & over	under 18	18 & over	under 18	
14. 3.55	95	1	62	2	160
13. 6.55	64	—	48	3	115
12. 9.55	73	1	54	5	133
12.12.55	62	—	43	1	106

### LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	301	290	591
Illegitimate ... ..	15	8	23
Total	316	298	614

Live birth rate per 1,000 population ... .. 14.71

Area Comparability Factor—

The Area Comparability Factor provided by the Registrar General is 0.96. This factor X Crude Live Birth Rate gives a standard Birth Rate for the District of ... 14.12

Live birth rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ... .. 15.0



## LIVE BIRTHS

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Legitimate ... ..	766	893	856	750	712	720	646	689	627	591
Illegitimate ... ..	26	26	14	26	22	33	22	21	16	23
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..	20.8	22.87	21.63	19.00	17.86	18.45	16.28	17.12	15.64	14.71

## STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	10	9	19
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Total ... ..	10	9	19

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births 30.01

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births  
(England and Wales) 23.1

## STILL BIRTHS

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Legitimate ... ..	34	22	18	17	32	14	27	22	21	19
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	—	4	2	1	—	1	—	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still Births ... ..	42.3	23.3	19.6	26.3	44.2	19.5	38.8	31.3	31.6	30.01

## DEATHS

Nett deaths allocated to the District (after allowing for inward and outward transfers):—

Male

255

Female

176

Total

431

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... .. 10.32

The Area Comparability factor provided by the Registrar General is in this case 1.17.

This factor X Crude Death Rate gives a Standard Death Rate ... .. 12.07

Death Rate for England and Wales ... .. 11.7

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

				Rate per 1,000 live & still births	
				Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Maternal causes					
(excluding abortion)	...	—	0.00	0.54	
Others due to abortion	...	—	0.00	0.10	
Total				0.00	0.64

## INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year of age:—

	Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	Eng. & Wales Rate
All infants per 1000 live births	19	30.9	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17	28.7	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	86.9	—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 — 2 weeks	3rd week	4th week	Total 1 — 4 weeks Neo-natal mortality	4 wks. — 3 mths.	3 mths. — 6 mths.	6 mths. — 9 mths.	9 mths. — 12 mths.	Total Deaths Under 1 year of age
Prematurity ...	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Birth Injury ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Respiratory Failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningomyelocele	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Intestinal Obstruction	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro enteritis ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	3
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals ...	10	2	1	1	14	1	2	2	—	19

The following table sets out the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Cannock Urban District, as compared with the rates for England and Wales as a whole, London Administrative County, 160 County Borough and Great Towns (over 50,000 population) including London and 160 smaller towns:—

	Birth Rate Live Still	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England and Wales ...	15.0	23.1	11.7
London Administrative County ...	15.1	20.2	11.5
160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London) ...	14.9	23.2	11.6
160 Smaller Towns ...	14.9	23.3	11.6
Cannock 25 — 50,000 at 1951 Census ...	14.71	30.01	10.32
			30.9

The estimated population, birth rate, infant mortality rate (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality rate (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population ...	39,150	39,730	40,590	40,890	41,080	40,810	41,030	41,230	41,090	41,730
Birth Rate ...	21.72	23.69	22.49	19.49	18.69	18.81	16.93	17.77	16.15	15.16
I.M. Rate ...	61.86	50.05	39.8	36.3	36.8	35.93	43.41	43.66	38.88	30.9
M.M. Rate ...	2.4	0.00	2.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Death Rate ...	10.85	11.75	9.48	11.03	10.58	11.93	11.67	10.74	10.29	10.32

#### Chief Causes of death in order of Importance.

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total	% of Total Deaths in 1955	% of Total Deaths in 1954
Heart Disease ...	90	64	154	35.7	39.0
Cancer ...	39	31	70	16.2	15.8
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	38	27	65	15.0	14.8
Bronchitis ...	18	16	34	7.8	5.9
Accidents ...	18	7	25	5.8	1.4
Pneumonia ...	3	4	7	1.6	2.1

The above six causes together account for some 80% of the deaths.

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	6	7
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus ...	10	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	—	9
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	22	12
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	1
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	4
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	38	27
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	28	19
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	1	6
20. Other Heart Disease ... ..	52	34
21. Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	9	5
22. Influenza ... ..	1	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	3	4
24. Bronchitis ... ..	18	16
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	5	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	2	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	5	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital Malformation ... ..	4	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	21	12
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	3
34. All other Accidents ... ..	16	4
35. Suicide ... ..	5	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	—	—
Totals ... ..	255	176

## NATURAL INCREASE — EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Births ... ..	827	941	914	797	768	768	695	733	664	633
Deaths ... ..	413	467	385	451	435	489	479	443	423	431
Natural Increase ...	414	474	529	346	333	279	216	290	241	202
Estimated Pop. ...	39,150	39,730	40,590	40,890	41,080	40,810	41,030	41,230	41,090	41,730

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services within the Cannock Urban District

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories have provided a comprehensive service throughout the year. They have been most helpful with advice and information, as well as in the work undertaken for us.

Results of examinations were as follows:—

#### Swabs

Throat	Positive	Negative	Total
For General Practitioners ...	9	15	24
For Hospitals ... ..	—	—	—

#### Nose

For General Practitioners ...	1	3	4
For Hospitals ... ..	—	—	—

Sputa for Tuberculosis ... ..	48	477	525
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#### Other Specimens

Urine ... ..	5
Faeces ... ..	396
Blood ... ..	1
Others ... ..	3

In addition, many examinations of water, milk, food stuffs, sewage effluent were reported on by these Laboratories during the year.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

No difficulty has been experienced in securing admission of patients suffering from Infectious Diseases to Isolation Hospital. Indeed, the hospital staff have been most helpful in admitting doubtful cases for observation and diagnosis.

This service relieves doctors in practice and the Health Department of much anxiety, and is obviously of great benefit both to the individual patient, and from a general public health point of view.

The Isolation Hospitals also readily help us in difficulties such as those presented by expectant mothers who are near the due date and who develop some infectious complaint. Maternity hospital bookings have to be cancelled, or arrangements for a home confinement cannot be carried out. Facilities are available in the Isolation Hospital for the confinement of such patients.

Admission to Maternity Hospital for normal confinements have substantially increased, as compared with recent years, following the increase in maternity beds made available at Ivy House. Just under half the confinements which took place in the district, were hospital confinements.

Arrangements for the Stafford Hospital Management Committee to provide a Physiotherapy Clinic at Chadsmoor, which have been approved for some considerable time now, have not yet been translated into reality.

The establishment of a consultant ante-natal clinic at Chadsmoor by the hospital authorities awaits fulfilment.

## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council have continued to provide Ambulance, Home Nursing, Midwifery, Immunisation, Home Help and Child Welfare services within the District. The Welfare and ante-natal clinics remain the same as in previous years.

Vaccination against smallpox is carried out by doctors in General practice, but it is not done at the Clinics. Although the vaccination state of the population is too low for safety, no case of smallpox was notified. In the present unprotected state of the population, however, the introduction of infection could result in a severe outbreak of the disease.

Immunisation against whooping cough and diphtheria is provided at the Clinics and by the family doctors.



## SECTION C — Infectious Diseases

### INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Notifications)

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever ... ..	111	25	46	75	66	67	20
Measles ... ..	872	141	576	4	753	114	651
Whooping Cough ... ..	61	50	135	10	181	14	92
Diphtheria ... ..	1	5	4	2	4	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis — Paralytic Non-Paralytic	4	8	—	2	7	7	2
Acute Polio Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	19	15	6	4	6	22	22
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	35	—	2	517	30
Enteric Fevers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	2	3	9	4	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	2	2	2	2	—	1

### ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Polio Paralytic	Polio non- Paralytic
Under 1 year	—	19	5	—	1	—
1 — 2	—	155	26	—	—	—
3 — 4	5	189	27	—	—	—
5 — 9	9	278	32	—	—	—
10 — 14	4	6	1	—	—	—
15 — 24	2	3	—	—	—	—
25 & over	—	1	1	—	—	1



Age Groups	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infections	Dysentery	Enteric Fever	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 5 years	4	2	10	—	2	—	1
5 — 14	—	—	13	—	2	—	—
15 — 44	8	—	6	—	1	10	—
45 — 64	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	3	—	1	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1—5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5—15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—25	1	5	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	2	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	1
35—45	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
45—55	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
55—65	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 & up	4	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	1
Total	12	9	-	2	23	2	-	-	-	2

The number of New Cases and the number of Deaths for the past ten years were as follows:—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
NEW CASES										
Pulmonary ...	25	35	34	34	48	36	39	44	37	21
Non-Pulmonary ...	5	6	9	3	1	7	4	4	6	2
Total ...	30	41	43	37	49	43	43	48	43	23
DEATHS										
Pulmonary ...	13	16	10	14	17	12	8	11	9	2
Non-Pulmonary ...	2	5	3	3	—	3	3	1	2	—
Total ...	15	21	13	17	17	15	11	12	11	2

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows:—

The Limes, Himley	...	...	...	...	3
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	2
Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	19
Outwoods Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	1

DEATHS from Tuberculosis in England and Wales as a whole, 160 County Borough and Great Towns (over 50,000 population) including London, and 160 Smaller Towns, as compared with Cannock 25 - 50,000

	Deaths	Rate per million
England and Wales ... ..	6,492	146
Great Towns ... ..	3,834	165
Smaller Towns ... ..	777	132
Cannock ... ..	2	47

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER. The number of Tuberculosis cases on the register on 1st January, 1955, was 241.

The distribution was as follows:—

	Bridgtown	Cannock	Chadsmoor	Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	Hazel Slade Cannock Wood Rawsley	Hednesford
Pulmonary ...	17	79	25	20	11	69
Non-Pulmonary	1	10	2	—	1	6
Total ...	18	89	27	20	12	75

#### Additions to Register. PULMONARY

No. of New Notifications	...	...	21
No. of Transfers In	...	...	9
No. Restored to register	...	...	—
Total	...	...	30

#### Deletions from Register PULMONARY

No. Died	...	...	4
No. Recovered	...	...	5
No. of Transfers Out	...	...	12
Total	...	...	21

Additions to Register.            NON-PULMONARY

No. of New Notifications	2
No. of Transfers In ...	1
No. Restored to register	
Total	3

Deletions from Register.            NON-PULMONARY

No. Died	...	
No. Recovered	...	1
No. of Transfers Out	...	3
Total	...	4

CANCERS

There were 70 deaths from cancer, 3 more than in the previous year.  
The following table shows the trend over the last 10 years:--

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ...	58	61	46	66	60	54	77	77	67	70
Population ...	39,150	39,730	40,590	40,890	41,080	40,810	41,030	41,230	41,090	41,730
Rate per 1,000 of the Pop. ...	1.48	1.53	1.13	1.61	1.46	1.32	1.87	1.86	1.63	1.67

# Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on work carried out by the Public Health (Sanitary) Department during the year 1955. Incorporated in this report are details relating to Public Cleansing and Conveniences which have been supplied by Mr. C. F. Poole, Cleansing Superintendent.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938

### INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD & FOOD PREMISES

#### FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises, both wholesale and retail, have been frequently visited. Such visits, I have previously stressed, pay dividends and throughout the year a reasonably high standard of cleanliness generally prevailed. Minor contraventions were noted but these were later remedied.

When possible, during visits to these premises, swabs of utensils and samples of washing and rinsing waters in use were taken. Bacteriological examination followed and the results indicated the degree of efficiency of the washing up process. A total of 133 hygiene (efficiency) tests were made and of these 120 proved to be satisfactory.

Set out in the following table are improvements at food premises.

Sec. 13 Sub - sec.	Improvements	General Dealers	Grocers	Butchers	Bakhouses	Cafes and Canteens	Ice-cream Premises	Total
(c)	Walls and ceilings repaired	-	2	-	-	2	3	7
	Windows repaired	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
	Floors repaired	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
(d)	Rooms re-decorated	-	10	6	11	14	12	53
(f)	Rooms ventilated	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
(g)	Rooms cleansed	-	5	1	-	-	-	6
	Yards cleansed	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
	Refuse removed	3	2	1	-	4	-	10
(i)	Sinks or washbasins provided or renewed	-	-	1	-	3	7	11
	Soap and towels provided	-	1	1	-	-	4	6
	Water heaters installed	-	1	-	-	-	4	5
	<i>Other improvements</i>							
	New Sanitary accommodation	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	New equipment	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
	Cloakroom provided	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

## CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Summary of articles of Food and Drugs submitted to the Public Analyst and results of analyses received are set out. The year 1955 saw the completion of the first full year since this Council became its own Food and Drugs Authority and in this period 161 articles were examined.

Samples	Genuine	Not Genuine
Blackcurrant Jam ... ..	1	—
Blancmange Powder ... ..	1	—
Butter ... ..	2	—
Cake and Pudding Mixtures ... ..	6	1
Dessicated Coconut ... ..	1	—
Drinks, Alcoholic ... ..	6	—
Drinks, Soft ... ..	6	—
Drugs ... ..	14	—
Fish and Fish Products ... ..	3	1
Flavourings ... ..	3	2
Flour ... ..	1	—
Golden Breadcrumbs ... ..	1	—
Horseradish ... ..	1	—
Ice-cream ... ..	10	—
Ice Lollies ... ..	2	—
Jelly ... ..	1	—
Lard ... ..	1	—
Liquid Egg ... ..	1	—
Margarine ... ..	6	—
Meat Pastes and Products ... ..	5	—
Milk, Pasteurised ... ..	20	—
„ Sterilised ... ..	22	—
„ Tuberculin Tested ... ..	6	1
„ T.T. Channel Isles Pasteurised ... ..	1	—
„ T.T. Channel Isles ... ..	6	—
„ T.T. Pasteurised ... ..	15	—
Mixed Fruit ... ..	1	—
Nibb-it ... ..	1	—
Potato Crisps ... ..	2	—
Sausage ... ..	8	—
Sweets, Confectionery ... ..	2	—
Total ... ..	156	5

## MILK.

Of the 71 samples of milk of all grades, one was below the presumptive standard of 8.5% solids-not-fat, the deficiency being proved to be due to natural causes. An informal sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was found to be 4.0% deficient in fat but a subsequent formal sample proved to be genuine.

The average composition of all samples of milk was:—

Fat	...	...	...	...	3.73%
Solids-not-fat	...	...	...	...	8.7%

## FISH SPREAD AND PEPPER FLAVOURED COMPOUND.

In each case these articles contained a small proportion of an ingredient not listed on the label.

## SWEETENED SPONGE MIXTURE.

A sample of this article was found to be deficient in sugar and probably due to the ingredients not having been properly mixed. Further samples taken proved to be genuine.

## MINT IN VINEGAR.

Ingredients on label not listed in the order, by quantity, in which they were used in the preparation of this pre-packed food. Firm in question now ceased to use the labels and correct labels currently in use.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD MILK

The number of licences to use special designations increased during the year.

### Dealer's Licences —

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	17
Pasteurised	...	...	27
Sterilised	...	...	64

### Supplementary Licences —

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	7
Pasteurised	...	...	8
Sterilised	...	...	7

Pasteuriser's Licence	...	...	1
-----------------------	-----	-----	---

Seven premises are registered as dairies (not being dairy farms) and 71 persons as distributors. Inspections were carried out frequently and the following samples of milk taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

From vans in course of delivery	...	...	...	60
From dairies	...	...	...	61
From shops	...	...	...	10

Results throughout the year showed tests proved satisfactory with the exception of eleven which failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. These samples were taken at the time of the year when the atmospheric temperatures were high.



## ICE-CREAM

Premises registered (as set out) showed a slight increase during 1955

### Manufacture and sale —

Hot mix method ... ..	2
-----------------------	---

Cold mix method ... ..	7
------------------------	---

Sale only ... ..	174
------------------	-----

It was only possible in this period to take 53 samples for bacteriological examination. The following results were obtained:—

Grade 1 ... ..	41
----------------	----

Grade 2 ... ..	4
----------------	---

Grade 3 ... ..	3
----------------	---

Grade 4 ... ..	5
----------------	---

The five samples which fell in Grade 4, were taken from three producers. In each case, after advice to the manufacturers, improved grading was obtained. It appears obvious that some people fail to realise the importance of sterilisation.

Ten samples were submitted for chemical analysis. All proved to be genuine.

## LIQUID EGG

A periodical check is made of the liquid egg produced at an Egg Packing Station in this district. In seven samples taken, the Bacteriologist reported "No pathogenic organisms were isolated."

## TEETHING POWDERS

In compliance with a request from the Ministry of Health, certain shops in this urban area were visited to ascertain if any teething powders containing mercury were still in stock. This followed recent cases of infant deaths recorded as due to the ingestion of such powders.

Altogether, 182 were visited and a total of 570 powders (made to an old formula) were found to be still on sale at 14 shops. All powders found were either destroyed or returned to the manufacturers.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

The number of slaughterhouses in use during 1955 was twelve—an increase of one over the previous year. When the Council considered the question of slaughtering facilities in 1954, it was decided to licence eighteen slaughterhouses subject to the respective occupiers carrying out certain conditions. Thirteen subsequently carried out the specified work but only twelve have since brought their slaughterhouses into use.

The majority of the butchers continued to prefer to buy their meat "off the hook"—some of the meat on sale is from animals slaughtered in adjacent districts. As reported last year, the arrangements have generally continued to work satisfactorily, the facilities afforded proving adequate. Slaughtering continued to take place at times in the evenings and on Sundays—this practice, common no doubt, in many districts—interfered with the leisure time of the Inspectors. I am able to report that throughout the year, one hundred per cent of the animals slaughtered (8.482) was achieved, and in doing so pay particular tribute to the Additional Sanitary Inspectors.



Table I

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. of animals slaughtered	575	263	133	3658	3853
No. of animals inspected	575	263	133	3658	3853
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	2	2	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	132	78	2	124	855
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerchi	25.1%	29.6%	3%	3.4%	22%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	2	1	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	26	52	Nil	Nil	99
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.9%	20.7%	0.8%	Nil	2.6%
CYSTICERCOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS :				
Carcase Meat ... ..		15	2	22
Offal ... ..	2	7	1	8
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :				
Carcase Meat ... ..	1	15	1	27
Offal ... ..	1	1	3	24
CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY :				
Carcase Meat ... ..		5	0	10
Offal ... ..		1	1	0
	6	6	3	7

TABLE II Showing Affected Carcase Parts

	Cattle except Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcases ...	1	2	3	2	7
Part carcasses ...	12	13	1	5	26
Heads ...	15	22	3	2	81
Hearts ...	6	12	3	2	118
Kidneys ...	2	8	6	4	24
Lungs ...	36	60	4	24	794
Livers ...	86	58	3	89	75
Spleens ...	3	9	3	2	15
Stomachs ...	5	10	3	2	23
Intestines ...	6	9	3	2	32
Udders ...	—	33	—	2	11
Uteri ...	—	11	—	—	1
Mesenteries ...	3	6	3	2	14

TABLE III Incidence of Disease in Meat (weight in pounds)

	Other	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Abscesses ...	236	165	—	2	127
Actinomycosis ...	139	65	—	—	21
Angiomatosis ...	—	35	—	—	—
Bronchiectasis ...	12	—	—	—	—
Bacterial Necrosis	108	—	—	—	—
Bruising ...	25	13	—	—	14
Cirrhosis ...	41	19	—	10	28
Congestion ...	—	—	—	—	1476
Cysticercus Bovis	710	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	20
Fascioliasis ...	757	543	—	341	—
Fevered carcasses	—	—	—	—	207
Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	—	92
Hydatid disease	15	65	—	—	—
Hydro Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	15
Inflammation ...	16	39	—	—	58
Mastitis ...	—	75	—	—	—
Melanosis ...	—	—	—	—	16
Metritis ...	—	—	—	—	10
Metritis, acute	—	—	—	—	—
septic ...	—	—	—	56	—
Muelleriasis ...	—	—	—	—	16
Neoplasms ...	24	—	—	—	—
Oedema,	—	—	—	—	—
generalised ...	—	—	—	—	225
Pentastomes ...	—	15	—	—	—
Pericarditis ...	10	—	—	—	101
Peritonitis ...	30	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis, acute	—	—	—	—	—
septic ...	—	—	—	97	129
Pleurisy ...	70	45	—	52	292
Pneumonia ...	—	—	4	—	258
Putrefaction ...	229	—	—	126	32
Swine Fever ...	—	—	—	—	230
Strongylosis ...	—	—	—	32	—
Umbilical Pyaemia	—	—	164	—	—
Urticaria ...	—	—	—	—	10
Tuberculosis ...	986	3787	30	—	1632

## UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

The food set out in the following table was found to be unfit for human consumption. This was voluntarily surrendered at the time of inspection and later destroyed under the supervision of the department. Surrender notes were obtained for all the food and 780 condemnation certificates issued.

Type of Food	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat and Offal ... ..	6	6	3	7	0
Meat ,canned ... ..		12	0	13	8
Tomatoes, canned ... ..		7	3	12	5
Fruit, canned ... ..		7	2	0	14½
Vegetables, canned ... ..		5	0	2	5
Soup, canned ... ..		3	1	22	10
Fish ... ..		2	1	7	4
Jam ... ..		2	0	12	11½
Milk, canned ... ..		1	3	17	2
Baby and Medicinal purpose foods		1	3	16	11
Cheese ... ..		1	2	21	12
Tapioca and Farinoca ... ..		1	0	26	0
Sauce, bottled ... ..		1	0	20	1¾
Cake and sponge mixture ... ..		1	0	13	14½
Coffee ... ..		1	0	3	14
Miscellaneous ... ..		4	1	4	10
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11¼</b>

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933—1954

No new applications to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter-house or knacker's yard were received during the year, but 75 renewals of existing licences were granted. Slaughtermen are informed as to the necessity of obtaining a Firearms Certificate under the Firearms Act, 1937.

My department continues to have available one Captive Bolt Pistol for use by licenced slaughtermen in cases of emergency.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations were continually borne in mind and following a visit to slaughterhouses in use, the local representative of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals expressed satisfaction that humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals were in compliance with the Regulations.

### KNACKER'S YARD

Regular visits have been paid to the one Knacker's Yard in this district. The occupiers of these premises also carry on the business of converting inedible animal offal, diseased meat, etc., into fertilisers. Large quantities of condemned meat are received from abattoirs. The mechanical sprays installed were successful in neutralising the smells which originated during the process of extracting the fat from the raw material.

### PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

Dairies and Milk Distributors .. .. .	79
Purveyors of milk from other districts selling milk in this area ..	12
Pakehouses ... .. .	13
Slaughterhouses ... .. .	13
Butchers Shops ... .. .	41
Meat Stalls ... .. .	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... .. .	40
Mortuaries ... .. .	2
Knacker's Yard ... .. .	1
Factories .. .. .	128
Pet Shops ... .. .	7
Rag Flock Premises . . . . .	3

### WATER SUPPLY

During 1955, the last house in this Urban Area which was dependent on a well for its water supply, was demolished. All premises now have available water supplied by the Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

A total of 35 samples of water were taken and submitted for examination. With the exception of two, which the Bacteriologist reported as 'suspicious', all proved satisfactory. One of these was from the well—now dispensed with—and the other from a dwelling house in an area where subsidence had taken place. In this case, appropriate action was taken and a subsequent sample proved satisfactory. Cannock is a mining area having its subsidence problems and the possibility of mains being fractured.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936 -- SLUM CLEARANCE

Owing to staff problems, it was impossible to give a complete picture of unfit houses in the Urban Area. However, a list of properties (752) likely to be dealt with in the Council's Slum Clearance programme was submitted and considered. Each of the houses will, of course, be dealt with on its merits when action is taken.

As will be seen in this section of the report, the Council is now proceeding with the work of dealing with unfit houses. Only the fringe has so far been touched, but already the tempo is increasing.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	363
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1464
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	59
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ..	225
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	58
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	299

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	122
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#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) by Owners ... ..	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	112
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	...	72
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	7
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0
(e) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—		
Number of dwellings closed under Section 10 (1)	...	1

### UNFIT HOUSES

Number demolished:—

Individual Unfits	...	7
Clearance Orders	...	2
Voluntary	...	9

### SITUATION OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED

St. Paul's Ward:—

500 and 502, Watling Street, Bridgtown	...	Voluntary
Two Cottages, Rumer Hill, Cannock	...	Demolition Orders

St. Luke's Ward:—

The Cot, Spring Street, Cannock	...	Demolition Order
1, Walsall Road, Cannock	...	Voluntary

St. Chad's Ward:—

13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23, Holly Street		
Chadsmoor	...	Voluntary

St. Mark's Ward:—

210, Heath Street, Hednesford	...	Demolition Order
256 and 258, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford	...	Clearance Order



St. John's Ward:—

The Hollies, off Ironstone Road,  
Chase Terrace ... .. Demolition Order

St. Peter's Ward:—

Two Cottages, Harveys Cottages,  
Sevens Road, Rawnsley ... .. Demolition Orders

### SITUATION OF BUILDINGS CLOSED

St. Paul's Ward:—

Cottage, Lichfield Road, Leacroft.

St. John's Ward:—

96a, 98a and 98b, Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes.  
Boatman's Mission, Canal Side, East Cannock.

### CLEARANCE AREAS REPRESENTED

St. Luke's Ward:—

Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Bungalows, Spring Street, Cannock.

St. Chad's Ward:—

42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 56 Bradford Street, Hightown.  
Hednesford.

13, 15, 17 and 19 Bradford Street, Hightown, Hednesford.

St. Mark's Ward:—

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 Abbey Street, and 43, 45, 47, 49, 51  
and 53, Blewitt Street, Hednesford.

### SITUATION OF HOUSES REPRESENTED FOR DEMOLITION

St. Paul's Ward:—

Kingswood Cottage, off Washbrook Lane, Leacroft.

St. Aidan's Ward:—

73 and 75, Old Fallow Road, Cannock.

St. Mark's Ward:—

210, Heath Street, Hednesford.

St. Peter's Ward:—

11, Uxbridge Street, Hednesford.

### HOUSES ERECTED

19 Bungalows were built by private enterprise.

29 Houses were built by private enterprise.

54 Houses were built by the local authority.

71 Permanent bungalows were erected by the local authority.



## HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Houses repointed, roughcast or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Damp Proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New quarry and concrete floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Wood floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
New windows and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
New doors fitted and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Stair treads renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Handrails fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New sinks and sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Yards paved and paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

## OVERCROWDED DWELLING HOUSES

The exact overcrowding position in this Urban Area is at present an unknown quantity. This could only be ascertained by means of a survey, which, owing to the commitments of the department, is impossible at the present time.

Cases dealt with in the period under review were as follows:—

Number of cases on books at end of 1955 .. ... 12

Number of cases abated:—

From council houses ... .. 2

From private houses ... .. 8

Number of new cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during 1955 ... .. 5

Many houses are also known to be “morally” overcrowded, but cases reported were overcrowded on the standard laid down in the Housing Act. At other houses, as the families grow older, overcrowding will exist.

Every effort is made to alleviate this problem and if necessary the cases are referred to the Housing Committee. Of the ten cases abated, two were re-housed by the Council, two by the National Coal Board, two in private dwelling houses and in four cases the number of inmates was reduced.

## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Two applications for certificates as to the condition or state of repair of houses were received, but the conditions existing at the dwelling houses did not warrant the granting of certificates.

### COMPLAINTS

This section of the department's work is "ever present." During 1955, 535 complaints were received and appropriate action taken. Certain members of the public do not appear to realise that this is only part of our duties and, owing to lack of time by the available staff, delays are inevitable. It seems to be the general idea "when in trouble—go to the Sanitary Inspector."

Complaints received are sometimes strange in character, but the department always endeavours to help or advise. To quote an example, one was received from a mother who had purchased a baby's rattle. This had subsequently fallen to pieces and inside were what appeared to be "seeds" showing signs of germination. One can imagine the relief of the mother when we were able to inform her that the seeds were quite harmless, being vetches. These are more satisfactory than pebbles which are sometimes put into babies rattles.

### NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	...	...	178
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter	...	...	10
Defective water closets and drains	...	...	128
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	1
Dirty yards	...	...	1
Dirty dwelling houses	...	...	1
Dwelling houses needing repair	...	...	363
Dwelling houses overcrowded	...	...	5

### IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

- 4 Pail closets dispensed with.
- 4 Water closets substituted for 4 pail closets.
- 1 Water closet substituted for 1 waste water closet.
- 124 Water closets put in order.
- 29 New water closet pans.
- 9 New water closet seats.
- 10 New water closet flushing cisterns.
- 13 Water closet flushing cisterns repaired.
- 4 Choked water closets opened.
- 67 Choked drains opened.
- 67 Yards of new drains on 15 premises.
- 17 Drains repaired.
- 2 Drain ventilating shafts repaired.

- 1226 New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins  
 (Council Scheme)  
 24 New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins. (Owners)  
 2 New gullies provided.  
 4 New drain inspection chambers constructed.  
 5 New drain inspection chamber covers provided.  
 2 New sanitary pails provided.

### NOTICES SERVED

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	392
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	113

### RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED

Nuisances abated	...	...	...	328
Notices outstanding	...	...	...	68

In the case of those outstanding, notices were mainly served towards the end of the year and in certain cases work was in hand or orders given.

### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of those parts of the area where no sewers exist the accommodation is almost entirely on the water carriage system. Existing cesspools, chemical closets and sanitary pails are regularly emptied by the Council's Cleansing Department. Privies are memories of the past.

All ashpits have been dispensed with and dustbins are provided. The Council have continued to provide and maintain dustbins in accordance with Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, a charge of 4/- per annum being made for each dustbin. The scheme is greatly favoured by owners and in my opinion, a public health service of immense value.

During 1955, 1,226 bins were supplied of which 640 were renewals. Since the scheme came into operation 10,999 dustbins have been provided and at the majority of houses in this area, dustbins are provided by the Council.

### INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, operation of various instruments for assessing the deposited atmospheric impurities and for estimating the sulphur in the atmosphere continued. Two Deposit Gauges, six Lead Peroxide instruments and one combined Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide apparatus were in use. These, together with many instruments sited throughout the country, make possible the continuous research which is taking place to add to the knowledge of the nature and amount of atmospheric pollution.

The Deposit Gauges collect samples of all the chief impurities in the air and during 1955 continued to show a steady decline in the pollution problem. Average deposits in respect of the last five years are set out.

### DEPOSIT IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE PER MONTH

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
19.12	19.00	16.48	16.47	15.91

The lead peroxide instruments which record the sulphur pollution showed the amounts fluctuated during the year. Excessive returns of pollution were investigated but no explanation was found.

Smoke observations have continued and in five instances the occupiers of the premises concerned were approached. In each case improvements were obtained. At this point, I must acknowledge the help and advice which was so willingly given by the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service.

Table-I  
DEPOSIT GAUGES — RECORD OF DEPOSITS

					Deposit in Tons per Square Mile per Month	
Month					Bridgtown	Littleworth
January	...	...	...	...	13.88	17.98
February	...	...	...	...	9.67	7.14
March	...	...	...	...	16.91	24.91
April	...	...	...	...	11.38	14.04
May	...	...	...	...	11.17	18.79
June	...	...	...	...	13.93	17.92
July	...	...	...	...	11.00	20.35
August	...	...	...	...	11.25	27.28
September	...	...	...	...	15.44	17.40
October	...	...	...	...	15.30	31.10
November	...	...	...	...	10.28	13.87
December	...	...	...	...	14.79	16.23
Totals					155.00	227.01
Monthly average, 1955					12.91	18.91
Monthly average, 1954					14.75	18.20

Table II

# LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day

Month		Bridg- town	Cannock	Pye Green	Hednes- ford	Wimble- bury	Rumer Hill
January	...	3.79	2.50	5.15	2.05	2.46	4.10
February	...	1.99	1.53	3.39	2.12	4.96	1.79
March	...	3.61	1.48	1.68	1.84	2.26	2.54
April	...	1.22	1.26	1.27	1.12	1.19	4.06
May	...	2.47	0.98	2.88	2.39	1.05	3.98
June	...	0.86	0.42	0.49	0.70	0.89	1.18
July	...	0.80	0.50	0.73	1.07	1.08	1.28
August	...	0.71	0.56	0.68	0.68	1.01	1.13
September	...	0.69	1.40	0.66	0.68	1.15	1.69
October	...	1.23	0.76	1.26	1.75	2.18	2.13
November	...	1.52	1.35	1.58	6.89	3.40	5.80
December	...	6.97	5.26	1.55	6.80	1.81	3.97
Totals	...	25.86	18.00	21.32	28.09	23.44	33.62
Monthly Average							
1955	...	2.15	1.50	1.77	2.34	1.95	2.80
1954	...	1.56	1.61	1.50	1.55	2.05	2.70

Table III

# SMOKE FILTER AND VOLUMETRIC SULPHUR DIOXIDE APPARATUS

Monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide

Smoke		Milligrammes per cu. metre	Sulphur Dioxide		Parts per Million
Average	... ..	0.073	Average	... ..	0.011
Highest	... ..	0.220	Highest	... ..	0.030
Lowest	... ..	0.014	Lowest	... ..	0.003



## DISINFESTATION

It continues to be the practice of this Council to cause the houses of selected applicants to be visited prior to re-housing to ascertain whether disinfestation of their furnishings are necessary. This work over years has proved of great value.

In 1955, 247 visits were made and in 23 cases it was deemed advisable to carry out disinfestation—the furniture by means of Hydrogen Cyanide Gas and the bedding and soft furnishings by steam disinfection. All this was carried out by members of the staff of my department.

Minor infestations of bugs, fleas, cockroaches, ants, crickets, etc., were dealt with by means of insecticidal liquids or D.D.T. fumigation.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES — DISINFECTION

During 1955, the following notified (or suggested) cases of infectious diseases were investigated by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	20
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	655
Sonne Dysentery	...	...	...	...	21
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	13

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The outbreak of dysentery which occurred in 1954, subsided early in the year and only 21 cases were reported as compared with the previous year's total of 517. One persistent carrier was on our records for over twelve months during which time 37 samples of faeces, submitted by the person concerned, were examined.

Practically no terminal disinfection of rooms was carried out after infectious disease. The Council's Steam Disinfector was in use on 37 days and dealt with 854 articles. Adjoining authorities which have no facilities available continued to send bedding, etc., for disinfection.

A request was received from one person to disinfect certain articles of clothing. These had previously been sent to a relative then living in Moscow. The articles had been returned and information was received that they would not be accepted without a certificate of disinfection.

## RODENT CONTROL

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The work of Rodent Control continued throughout the year by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. Complaints from the occupiers of 205 premises were investigated and appropriate treatment followed. Other infestations were discovered and dealt with. The baiting and poisoning of the sewers in the Urban Area continued.

## 1. SURFACE DISINFESTATION

Work carried out by the Rodent Operator in connection with Surface Disinfestation is set out in the following tables.

The first table shows the properties inspected as a result of (1) notification (2) survey and (3) visits to premises primarily for some other purpose.

Type of Property				
Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. business premises)	Total
13	1,091	2	289	1,395

The second table indicates the properties found to be infested with rats or mice and subsequently treated. All were classed as minor infestations.

Type of Property				
Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. business premises)	Total
5	233	1	67	306

## 2. TREATMENT OF SEWERS

Two treatments were completed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division) as follows:—

1st Treatment — 22nd March to 2nd April, 1955.

No. of manholes in foul and connected systems ... 870 (approx.)

No. of manholes baited ... .. 20

No. of manholes showing pre-bait take ... .. 3

Scheme of baiting used ... .. 1st, 3rd and 5th days

Bait and Poison used ... .. Bread and Arsenic

2nd Treatment — 6th July to 4th August, 1955.

No. of manholes in foul and connected systems ... 870 (approx.)

No. of manholes baited ... .. 103

No. of manholes showing pre-bait take ... .. 11

Scheme of baiting used ... .. 1st, 3rd and 5th days

Bait and Poison used ... .. Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide

## 3. REFUSE TIPS

Tips in the area were frequently inspected and action taken where infestations were found.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables give details of factories inspected and action taken.



# 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	118	169	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (excluding outworkers' premises).	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	128	184	2	—

# 2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	9	9	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	9	9	—	—	—

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

The regular and frequent visits to shops carried out in this district in connection with Closing Hours and Sunday Trading has proceeded. It was evident on these visits that the majority of the shopkeepers now recognised the provisions of the Shops Act and although contraventions were found again, no prosecutions were necessary. A total of 347 visits were made and as shown in the succeeding table, inspections were made to ensure the records, hours of employment and the arrangements for the health and comfort of the shopworkers were observed.

Requirements	Contraven- tions	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served
<b>PART I.</b>			
Early Closing Days ... ..	35	35	Nil
General Closing Hours ...	4	4	Nil
<b>PART II.</b>			
Statutory half-holiday and meal times ... ..	20	20	Nil
Hours of employment of young persons ... ..	14	14	Nil
Arrangements for health and comfort of Shop Workers ...	10	10	Nil
<b>PART IV.</b>			
Sunday Trading ... ..	15	15	Nil

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Council's Caravan Site at Pye Green, which accommodated twelve caravans with its water supply, sanitary accommodation and means of drainage, was fully occupied once again, and applications to place caravans on this site outnumbered the available standings. I am glad to note the Council are contemplating the provision of an additional site.

Several sporadic cases of vans occupying unlicensed sites were dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936. Some members of the public do not appear to be aware of the legal position relating to moveable dwellings. Purchasers of vans, after investing their savings, are distressed when informed they cannot remain in, or place their caravans on certain sites.

## MORTUARIES

The Council's two mortuaries are provided at Cannock and Hednesford and frequent visits are made to ensure cleanliness. These premises are old and due to their size are somewhat restricted in the purpose for which they are used. Post mortem examinations are carried out and, in my opinion, better mortuary facilities should be provided for the district.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work of this department in all its aspects has proceeded satisfactorily during the year.

The availability of manpower has not greatly improved and some difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a sufficient labour force to cope with the increasing demands of the various sections of the service consequent on the progressive development of the area.

Particulars of the work are as follows:—

**REFUSE COLLECTION GENERALLY.** Both domestic and trade refuse collection and disposal have been maintained generally at a weekly interval.

Five vehicles, i.e. four 7 cubic yard capacity and one 10 cubic yard capacity, side loading, with sliding dustproof covers have been in continuous use.

**DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.** Controlled tipping at all sites has been practiced to the fullest extent that manpower would permit and a fair state of tidiness has been maintained.

Increased use of mechanical aids to levelling and soiling of tip surfaces and embankments has been made and there is little doubt that this method will need to be used more extensively in the future.

Insecticides have been freely used as a deterrent to fly and cricket infestations at tips and no major problem has arisen in this respect. Good use has been made of available soil, road sweepings and builders spoil for sealing of surfaces.

Tips used during the year are as follows:—

Littleworth Clayhole. This tip was completed during the year and is available for future development as a playing field.

Burgoyne Street, Land ex Dunning's Gravel Pit. This site has been used continually to dispose of refuse from the central and northern parts of the area. Good tipping conditions have obtained and this tip has a life of several years.

Walsall Road, Churchbridge. The smaller clayhole on this site has been completed during the year. After pumping the major area of the larger clayhole free of water, tipping has proceeded continuously and a tipping life of at least three years is envisaged at this site for the southern and central parts of the area.

Private Land off Cumberledge Hill, Cannock Wood. The use of this land for refuse from areas in the immediate proximity was completed during the year, the levels of the land being improved for future agricultural use to which it has now reverted.

Wood Lane, Hill Top, Hednesford. An area of low lying land on the site of future Staffordshire Education Committee's playing field for Littleworth Schools was raised to levels as required by that Authority during the year.

Future Tipping Sites. The future tipping policy is continually under review and sites are available to succeed those now in use whereby a tipping life of five years at least for the whole of the area is at present envisaged.

CESSPOOLS. A ten to fourteen day frequency of service has obtained generally in the Cannock Wood and Pye Green areas where cesspools predominate.

The 1,000 gallon capacity mechanically operated tanker vehicle is principally employed and the cesspool contents are discharged from tanker to gravitation sewers for subsequent treatment at sewage disposal works.

GULLY CLEANSING. This work has, whenever possible, been carried out with the 750 gallon capacity mechanical emptier, but it has been necessary to perform some of this work by manual emptying.

The gully contents are discharged at refuse tips and when dried out form excellent cover for sealing of tip surfaces and embankments.

STREET SCAVENGING. This work has been carried out by manual sweeping on a rota system, by a combination of the "beat" method, employing street orderly trucks, and "lengthsmen" work using a gang of men with a 25 cwt. capacity motor truck with sliding dustproof covers. Two such vehicles have been employed, as manpower has been available for team work and generally it has been found more efficient to increase the scope of team work as compared to the "beat" method.

Difficulties in finding the right type of labour for this class of work has at times had an effect on frequency of treatment of certain roads, but a fair standard of tidiness has been maintained generally.

Shopping and town centres receive daily treatment and the resultant refuse from markets is cleared immediately following sales.

The indiscriminate littering of streets, the "dumping" of rubbish and spillage from vehicles, remains a matter for concern and greatly increases the work of scavenging.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES. At the female conveniences situate at Cannock and Hednesford, lady attendant cleaners are employed daily, whilst most of the other conveniences throughout the area are visited daily for cleansing by an employee of the department. Every attempt is made to ensure a good standard of cleanliness, but it is regretted that this work continues to be rendered more difficult by misuse on the part of certain irresponsible persons. In that respect the defacing of walls and paintwork, damage to water pipes, locks, etc., necessitating consequent repair is still a substantial item of maintenance costs.

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## CONCLUSION

May I once again express most sincere thanks to my Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, to all Members of the Council and to Chief Officers (and their staffs) for the help given throughout the year.

I must also record my thanks to Dr. Webster, the Medical Officer of Health with whom it is a pleasure to work, for his continued consideration and support, and to all members of my staff (technical, clerical and workmen) for the conscientious and excellent manner they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. BALL.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.







